

Message Text

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53

ACTION H-03

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O R 311541Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1223
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES)
SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS

1. SUMMARY. DIGGS' VISIT WENT OFF REASONABLY WELL. ISSUE OF HIS PRESS STATEMENT RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY BY HIS RELEASE OF IT ON DEPARTURE FROM LOURENCO MARQUES AND HIS DECISION MAIL TEXTS TO SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIA DURING A STOP AT FRANCISTOWN ENROUTE LUSAKA. MAKE IT CLEAR HE WAS UNHAPPY ABOUT DECISION THAT EMBASSY WOULD NOT RELEASE STATEMENT HERE, AND ABOUT SA VISA REFUSAL, PROMISING THOROUGH INVESTIGATION ON RETURN TO WASHINGTON. ON HIS QUESTIONS (KINSHASA 565) IN SESSION AFTER INITIAL ARRIVAL FLAP HE WAS MODERATE AND REASONABLE. HE WENT AWAY IN MORNING HAPPY OVER FOUR COLUMN FRONT PAGE STORY IN RAND DAILY MAIL HEAD-LINED "DIGGS IN DRAMA AT JAN SMUTS" WHICH CARRIED HIS STATEMENT RELEASED AT LOURENCO MARQUES. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS RELEASE WAS MOST SERIOUS ISSUE. HE HAD HEARD ABOUT SAG POSITION BEFORE LEAVING LM AND RELEASED STATEMENT THERE. HE WANTED TO FOLLOW UP BY MAILING IT FROM HERE TO SA MEDIA. WE SUPPLIED PRESS LIST AND BLANK ENVELOPES AT HIS URGENT DEMAND. WE RETOLD EPISODE OF SA DENIAL OF RELEASE AND OUTLINED GUIDANCE

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FROM DEPT (PRETORIA 336 AND DEPT 21568, LATTER HAVING BEEN

RECEIVED PRIOR HIS ARRIVAL). DEMANDED COPIES WHICH WE REFUSED FURNISH ON GROUNDS THEY WERE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS. OBJECTED TO OUR POSITION AND THEN MADE CLEAR HE WOULD PUSH THROUGH INVESTIGATION ON RETURN AS TO WHO MADE DECISION, CALLING DEPT "WEAK-KNEED", ETC. WE WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE BLANK ENVELOPES UNTIL OUR EARLY MORNING RETURN FOR HIS DEPARTURE. AT THAT TIME WE MADE POINT THAT IF EMBASSY WERE TO MAIL THEM (HE COULDN'T GET POSTAGE STAMPS AT THAT HOUR) WE COULD EXPECT SHARP SAG REACTION EG AGAINST HIS FAVORITE PROJECT OF USIS FACILITY IN SAWETO OR HARASSMENT OF EMBASSY IN NUMBER OTHER WAYS. AT THAT POINT HE AGREED TO MAIL HIS RELEASES FROM FRANCISTOWN BOTSWANA WHERE HIS PLANE WAS STOPPING ENROUTE TO LUSAKA. HE CONCLUDED BY INSISTING INFORMATION ACTIVITIES WAS TWO-WAY STREET AND US SHOULD NOT BE PUSHED AROUND, INDICATING HE INTENDED MAKE TROUBLE FOR SAG MININFO AND THEIR WASHINGTON ACTIVITIES. JUST AT THIS POINT, ADMIN COUNSELOR MOORE GAVE HIM MORNING'S RAND DAILY MAIL WHERE HIS STATEMENT AT LM WAS SUBJECT FOUR COLUMN SPREAD ON PAGE ONE. THIS PLEASED HIM, BUT HE EMPHASIZED HE WAS MISQUOTED ON AMBASSADOR HURD'S DEPARTURE PLANS -- SEE PRETORIA 361 FOR HIS ACTUAL WORDS.

3. IN LONG DISCUSSION OVER SAG'S REFUSING HIM A VISA HE MADE IT CLEAR HE WAS SEARCHING FOR MEANS OF RETALIATION IN U.S. VISA ISSUANCE FOR THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST HIM. WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN 6 MEMBER CODEL CURRENTLY VISITING SA (SEE CAPETOWN 132 AND PREVIOUS). HE REQUESTED NEWSPAPER CLIPS ON VISIT WHICH WE SUPPLIED.

4. ON HIS LONG QUESTIONNAIRE (KINSHASA 565) WE TACKLED THIS AFTER RELAXED DINNER AND SPENT TWO AND HALF HOURS ON IT. HE ACCEPTED UNDERSTANDINGLY OUR RESPONSES INCLUDING WHERE DEPT FURNISHING DATA AND RAISING EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE ALTHOUGH MAKING IT CLEAR THAT HE HELD STRONG VIEWS ON LATTER ISSUE. WE ARE POUCHING DEPT (FOR AF/S) COPY OUR RESPONSES. WE FOUND THIS A USEFUL AND PLEASANT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

5. PARTICIPANTS IN THE SESSIONS BESIDES PRATT AS OIC PRETORIA WERE PETERSON, PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNSELOR, AND MOORE, ADMIN COUNSELOR PRETORIA; GUTHRIE, CONGEN, AND HUTCHISON, CONSUL JOHANNESBURG. DFA PROTOCOL OFFICERS AT JAN SMUTS AVOIDED DIGGS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIKE PLAGUE BUT PASSPORT CONTROL OFFICERS WERE EXCEEDINGLY HELPFUL TO HIM AND US.

6. PETERSON HAS PREPARED DETAILED MEMORANDUM OF DISCUSSION WHICH WE ARE POUCHING TO ALL ADDRESSEES.
HURD

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